

SUNDAY, JANUARY 3, 2021

**EPIPHANY SUNDAY**

ST/JOHN'S



# EPIPHANY SUNDAY

Sunday, January 3, 2021

9:30 am

## INTRODUCTION

*The feast of Epiphany (“manifestation”) concludes the Christmas season with a celebration of God’s glory revealed in the person of Jesus Christ. In Isaiah and Ephesians, that glory is proclaimed for all nations and people. Like the light of the star that guided the magi to Jesus, the light of Christ reveals who we are: children of God who are claimed and washed in the waters of baptism. We are sent out to be beacons of the light of Christ, sharing the good news of God’s love to all people.*

## PRELUDE

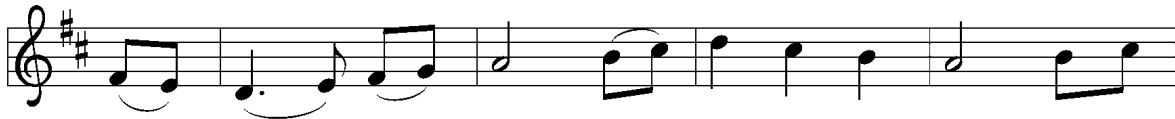
“A New Year’s Carol”

Benjamin Britten

**+ Gathering +**

## WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

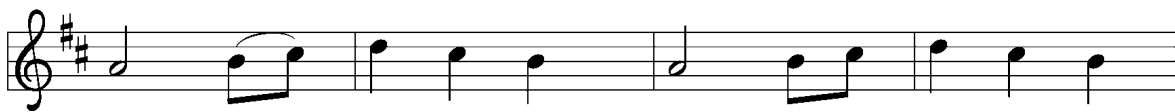
## RINGING OF THE BELL



1 The first No - el the an - gel did say was to  
 2 They look - ed up and saw . . . a star shin - ing  
 3 And by the light of that . . . same star three . .  
 4 This star drew near to the . . . north-west, o'er . .  
 5 Then en - tered in those wise . . . men three, full . .



cer - tain poor shep - herds in fields as they lay; in fields where  
 in . . . the east . . . be - yond . . . them far; and to the  
 wise . . . men came . . . from coun - try far; to seek for a  
 Beth - le - hem . . . it took . . . its rest; and there it  
 rev - 'rent - ly . . . up - on . . . their knee, and of - fered



they lay, keep - ing their sheep, on a cold win - ter's  
 earth it gave . . . great light, and . . . so it con -  
 king was their . . . in - tent, and to fol - low the  
 did both stop . . . and stay right . . . o - ver the  
 there in his . . . pres - ence their . . . gold, . . . and

*Refrain*



night that was so deep.  
 tin-ued both day and night.  
 star wher - ev - er it went. No - el, No - el, No -  
 place where Je - sus lay.  
 myrrh, and frank - in - cense.



el, No - el! Born is the King of Is - ra - el.

Text: English traditional  
 Music: THE FIRST NOWELL, English traditional

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

All-loving and ever-living God, you revealed the incarnation of your Child by the brilliant shining of a star. Shine the light of your justice always in our hearts and over all lands, and accept our lives as the treasure we offer in your praise and for your service, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### STAR WORD PRAYER

When extraordinary things happen in the sky, we stop and notice. We look for comets, shooting stars, full moons. We watch for rocket launches, satellites drifting in space, and the space station circling our orbit. The Magi were paying close attention to the sky when they saw something different—a star that shone so brightly, they were compelled to follow it.

Just as the Christmas star once shined for all people to see, the light of Christ still shines for all people. May we use these star words as reminders of the Christmas star we invite into our lives so that we might be led toward Jesus Christ.

We are seekers—just like the Magi.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

We are looking for hope, peace, joy, love and so much more that Christ brings.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

We long for the abundant life God promises.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

May this star word be one of encouragement.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

May this word guide our intentions in the days to come.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

May we pay attention to where God is present.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you.**

May God use these words to show us how to live and love in the world.

**Light our paths and lead us closer to you. Amen.**

Star Word Liturgy by Courtney Mills Jones Willis, 2020.

**+ Word +**

## READING

Isaiah 60:1-6

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

<sup>2</sup>For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

<sup>3</sup>Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

<sup>4</sup>Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

<sup>5</sup>Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

<sup>6</sup>A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.  
They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

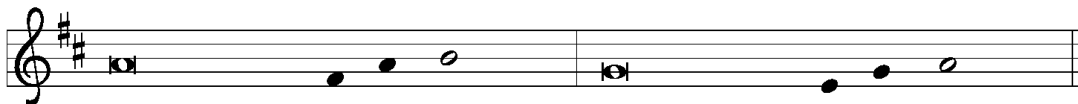
PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

*Sung responsively. Congregation sings verses in bold.*

*Refrain:*

Jesus shall reign where'er the sun  
Does its successive journeys run,  
His kingdom stretches from shore to shore,  
Till moons shall wax and wane no more.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

<sup>1</sup>Give the king your justice, O God,  
and your righteousness to the king's son;  
<sup>2</sup>**that he may rule your people righteously  
and the poor with justice;**  
<sup>3</sup>that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people,  
and the hills, in righteousness.

<sup>4</sup>**Let him defend the needy among the people,  
rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**

<sup>5</sup>May he live as long as the sun and moon endure,  
from one generation to another.

<sup>6</sup>**Let him come down like rain upon the mown field,  
like showers that water the earth. Refrain**

<sup>7</sup>In his time may the righteous flourish;  
 and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more.  
<sup>10</sup>**May the kings of Tarshish and of the isles pay tribute,  
 and the kings of Sheba and Seba offer gifts.**  
<sup>11</sup>May all kings bow down before him,  
 and all the nations do him service.  
<sup>12</sup>**For the king delivers the poor who cry out in distress,  
 the oppressed, and those who have no helper.**  
<sup>13</sup>He has compassion on the lowly and poor,  
 and preserves the lives of the needy.  
<sup>14</sup>**From oppression and violence he redeems their lives,  
 and precious is their blood in his sight. Refrain**

READING

Ephesians 3:1-12

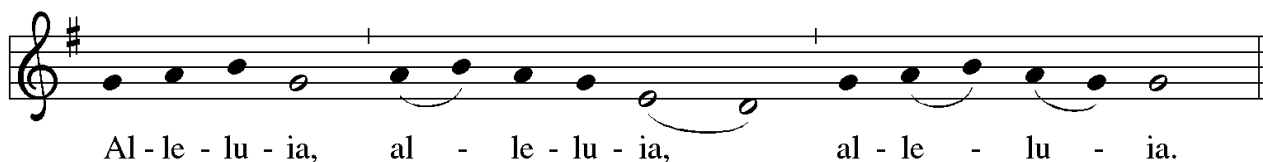
A reading from Ephesians.

<sup>1</sup>This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup>for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given me for you, <sup>3</sup>and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, <sup>4</sup>a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup>In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup>that is, the Gentiles have become fellow heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

<sup>7</sup>Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given me by the working of his power. <sup>8</sup>Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, <sup>9</sup>and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; <sup>10</sup>so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. <sup>11</sup>This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, <sup>12</sup>in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Matthew 2:1-12

The holy gospel according to Matthew.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, <sup>2</sup>asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” <sup>3</sup>When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; <sup>4</sup>and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. <sup>5</sup>They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

<sup>6</sup>“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;  
for from you shall come a ruler  
who is to shepherd my people Israel.”

<sup>7</sup>Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.” <sup>9</sup>When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. <sup>10</sup>When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. <sup>11</sup>On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. <sup>12</sup>And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.  
The gospel concludes:

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Allison Bengfort

HYMN OF THE DAY

Arise, Your Light Has Come, ELW 314

1 A - rise, your light has come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;  
2 A - rise, your light has come! Fling wide the pris - on door;  
3 A - rise, your light has come! All you in sor - row born,  
4 A - rise, your light has come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.  
pro - claim the cap - tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.  
bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.  
Rise up like ea - gles on the wing, God's pow'r will make us strong.

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Response:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

*or*

Lord, we praise you,  
**Thanks be to God.**

+ **Meal** +

## OFFERING MUSIC

“Angels We Have Heard on High”

arr. By Anne Krentz Organ

Virtual Choir from Association of Lutheran Church Musicians

*We give thanks for your ongoing support of the ministry of St. John's! Gifts may be made online at [stjohnswilmette.org/give](http://stjohnswilmette.org/give). You may also write a check made out to St. John's Lutheran Church and mail it to 1235 Wilmette Avenue, Wilmette, IL 60091.*

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

### LORD'S PRAYER

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name.**

**Your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## COMMUNION

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us from your very self with the body and blood of Christ. Through this mystery, send us forth to proclaim your promise to a world in need, through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**



## + Sending +

### SENDING HYMN

Brightest and Best of the Stars, ELW 303



1 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,



dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f'rings di - vine,  
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,



guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.

Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

### BENEDICTION

All-loving God,  
who sent the Holy Spirit to Mary,  
proclaimed joy through the angels,  
sent the shepherds with good news,  
and led the magi by a star,  
bless you this day ✠ through the Word made flesh.  
**Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the gift of Jesus.

**Thanks be to God!**

VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR

SERVING TODAY

<i>Preaching &amp; Presiding Minister:</i>	The Rev. Allison Bengfort
<i>Music Director &amp; Organist:</i>	Dr. Robert McConnell
<i>Cantor:</i>	Hannah McConnell
<i>Ministers of the Word:</i>	Cindi Rachowicz, Jan Wendel
<i>Virtual Usher:</i>	Luke Rasmussen

## IN OUR PRAYERS

- † Ann Wagner, recovering after hospitalization
- † The family of John Genovese, father of Courtney Radde, who died 12/17/20
- † Barry and Hope Kellman, friends of Diane Kastman, for healing for Barry and comfort for Hope
- † Jeremiah Allen, student of Stephanie Abudayeh, recovering from injuries after being hit by a car
- † Norma Adkerson, stepmother of Courtney, diagnosed with COVID
- † The family of Doris Regan, who died 11/25/20
- † Stanley Smith, brother-in-law of Margye Smith, and his family, experiencing several cases of COVID
- † The family and friends of Carolyn Rasmussen, grandmother of Luke Rasmussen, who died 10/9/20
- † Art Garcia, friend of Chad Johnson, recovering from a heart attack and pneumonia
- † Tony & Alissandra Swanson, friends of the Abudayeh family, as they mourn the death of their 7-year-old son
- † Alan Williams, stepfather of Christi Wise, recovering from surgery
- † Frank Ziegler, in need of healing
- † Iden Nowlin, friend of the Abudayeh family, recovering from cancer surgery
- † The families of Salwa Sous and Kevin Anderson, family members of Stephanie & Elias Abudayeh, as they mourn the loss of their loved ones
- † The family and friends of Pastor Bob Stout, former pastor of the Abudayeh family, who died 9/12/20
- † Rachel Cordts, recovering from cancer surgery
- † Cam Wise, for physical and emotional health
- † The family and friends of Matt Dossa, nephew of Jim Dossa, who died 6/7/20
- † Sylvia Cushing, cousin of Olga Domchenko, in need of healing
- † Janet Witt, cancer diagnosis
- † Virginia Milnikel, broken arm
- † Lani Miller
- † Doug Peters, who died 11/19/20
- † Linda Bengfort, mother of Pastor Allison, ongoing back pain
- † Greyson Nester
- † Margaret (Maggie) Oxland
- † The family and friends of Marty Anderson, family friend of Dave & Lyn Brunn, who passed away 11/15/20
- † Ellie Basnik, mother-in-law of Chad Johnson, cancer diagnosis
- † Gil Basnik, father-in-law of Chad Johnson, in need of healing
- † The family of Paul Escamilla, friend of Elias & Stephanie Abudayeh
- † Sydney Johnson, her work
- † Mark Voosen
- † Margaux Tauszig, granddaughter of Wolf Peddinghaus
- † Ed Price, friend of Sarah Rink
- † Jodi Kretzman, friend of Peter Knobel
- † Jessica Sandoval, friend of the Radde family
- † Fred Rudolphi, friend of Bill Kaspar, in need of healing
- † The family and friends of Helene Tadros, Olga Domchenko's sister, who died 4/6/20, and especially for William Sciarrino, Helene's caretaker
- † Natalie Domchenko & Hilaire Sainson, sister of Olga Domchenko and sister's husband, in need of healing

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **Bishop-Led Epiphany Service on Jan. 6th**

On Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, the official Feast of the Epiphany, a group of ELCA bishops, including our own Metro Chicago Bishop Yehiel Curry, will lead our denomination in an Epiphany of Our Lord service at 7 pm. The service will be streamed on the [Metro Chicago Synod Facebook](#) page as well as the [Southeastern Synod's YouTube channel](#). All are encouraged to tune in to celebrate the coming of the magi!

### **Dismantling White Supremacy in the Church: A Conversation with Rev. Lenny Duncan**

On Wednesday, January 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00-8:00 pm, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Northwestern is hosting a conversation with Pastor Lenny Duncan, author of *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the U.S.* and the recently released *United States of Grace*. Pastor Lenny is a nationally recognized writer, speaker, preacher, thinker, and agitator who has centered most of his theological work in the task of dismantling White Supremacy in Christian community, especially in the ELCA. Please [register here](#) for this Zoom webinar by Monday, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Children's Social Time**

We have begun offering time for children to connect with one another in an unstructured way before worship. This Children's Social Time begins at 9:15 am on our regular worship zoom link. If you have a young person at home, please log on and say hello!

### **Children's Bulletins**

Children's bulletins for each Sunday are now available on our website under Worship Bulletins and at the bottom of the eNewsletter each week. Check it out!

### **Amazon Smile**

Amazon Smile is a nonprofit founded by Amazon that donates a small percentage of your Amazon purchases to a charity of your choice. If you plan to make any orders on through Amazon, please consider using [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) rather than [amazon.com](https://amazon.com) to make your purchases. There, you can search for all the same products and have access to all your prime benefits, and when you place your order, you can designate "St John Evangelical Lutheran Church" as your charity. Please note that we recommend Amazon Smile to be used only as an alternative to Amazon.com. Whenever possible, St. John's encourages all its members to make purchases locally.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TODAY

9:15-9:30 AM	Children's Social Time
9:30 AM	Online Worship with Children's Message
10:30-11:00 AM	Virtual Coffee Hour

### WEDNESDAY

11:00-12:00 PM	Bible Study Online
----------------	--------------------

### THURSDAY

12:00-1:00 PM	Men's Lunch Online
---------------	--------------------

### SATURDAY

5:00 PM	Contemplative Service Online
---------	------------------------------

### SUNDAY, JANUARY 10

9:15-9:30 AM	Children's Social Time
9:30 AM	Online Worship with Children's Message
10:30-11:00 AM	Virtual Coffee Hour

# ST/JOHN'S

1235 Wilmette Avenue • Wilmette, Illinois 60091 • (847) 251-1730  
stjohnswilmette.com • Facebook: St. John's Wilmette